[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

formed into a separate section. This was done, and the newly formed Account Section, consisting of a Head Accountant, 1 clerk on Rs. 75-100, and 3 clerks on Rs. 45 to 70 and one clerk on Rs. 20 to 40, was placed under the Superintendent of Stationery.

(*d*) The pay of this officer was raised by Rs. 25 temporarily in consideration of the additional work involved. In Chingam, 1098, the pay was revised along with that of the other officers of the Secretariat and fixed at Rs. 200-25/2-250. No special pay is given to him for being in charge of the Account Section or the Central Vernacular Records.

Unused Road Materials.

307. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) whether there are any safeguards for the prevention of unused road materials being remeasured and paid for again, and, if so, what; and

(*b*) whether the orders, if any in this respect, are being strictly enforced?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes. Unused materials are recorded in monthly road material statements. Before a new supply is started, the unused materials lying on road sides are measured over to the contractors for the supply of materials, and their receipts obtained; and at the time of making payments, the unused materials are deducted and the balance alone paid for.

(*b*) Yes. They are reported to be enforced by the Division and Subdivision Officers.

Compulsory Retirement of Mr. H. R. Gunther.

308. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that they have ordered the compulsory retirement from the service of First Grade Inspector, Mr. H. R. Gunther, and, if so, the charges framed against him and submitted to the Government for their consideration by the Excise Commissioner?

(*b*) Was Mr. Gunther given an opportunity to explain the charges reported against him by the Excise Commissioner by granting him the copies relating to such charges; and, if so, what was the purport of his defence?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes. The Government are not prepared to disclose the charges framed departmentally against public servants.

(*b*) Yes. He was heard by the Dewan. Government offered to show him the records relating to the charges against him; but Mr. Gunther did not choose to peruse them or put in a defence.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that Mr. Gunther was one of the two Catholic Inspectors in the Excise Department out of a list of over sixty Inspectors in that department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether they are aware that Mr. Gunther had to complete only one and a half years more to complete his service?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was any charge reported to Government against him during his long service? If so, when and by whom and with what result?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that the present Excise Commissioner raked up an old case against him and recommended him for retirement and the Government vetoed his recommendation?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has the deficiency of salt found in the local salt depôt anything to do with his retirement?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That was one of the charges against him.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If so, are the Government aware that Mr. Gunther reported to the Head of the Department that the shed in which the deficiency was found was in a lower level than the surrounding ground and that, in case of rain, water would find its way into the shed?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it not a fact that it was only after one year after the water found its way into the shed in question and damaged the salt, that the P. W. D. thought of attending to the improvements recommended?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that a *mahazar* was drawn up by Mr. Gunther stating that the deficiency was caused by an act of God and that the *mahazar* was countersigned by the Assistant Excise Commissioner?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was not this *mahazar* placed before the Dewan by Mr. Gunther?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that Mr. Raman Pillai was satisfied with the explanation and took no action in the matter?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice of that question also.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not over ten years since this deficiency occurred?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not Mr. Gunther state in his memorial to Government that, if he was to be made responsible for the loss, it might be taken from his security money?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was any charge of corruption brought against Mr. Gunther at any time?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Not in the list of final charges, but as already stated, I am not sure whether any charge of corruption was brought against him previously.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was there any black mark against him?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not know.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it true that Mr. Gunther was informed at the time he appeared before the Dewan that he would be reduced to a Sub-Inspector in case he did not retire?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do the Government think that when an officer is suddenly faced with certain allegations he will be in a position to answer them off-hand especially as he will be feeling most nervous standing before the Head of the Administration?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He was not asked to answer those charges off-hand. Government were prepared to show him all the papers and to give him the necessary time. He chose the alternative to retire.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did Mr. Gunther put in a memorial to the Government when he was asked to appear before the Dewan begging to be informed in writing what the charge or charges against him were and that he should be informed in writing what the charges were?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was his prayer complied with or not?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government said that they would show him all the records connected with his case.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was his request complied with or not?

PRESIDENT: It has already been answered.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was the recommendation to retire him made in a confidential D. O. or an official communication?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not prepared to disclose that information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If the former, do the Government think it is right to act on such recommendations? Did Mr. Gunther's immediate superior report against him?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That does not arise, in view of the prior answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is there not a G. O. requiring the heads of departments and other officers to put down the charges against their subordinates specifically *in writing* and give them every opportunity to answer the charges in writing?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hoogewerf, all these questions may be covered by a single question, "Will the Government be pleased to place the papers on the table?" You are now eliciting from Government all the details connected with the charges against Mr. Gunther.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I have almost finished. There is only one question more.

Is there not a Government notification requiring heads of departments and offices to put down specifically the charges against their subordinates *in writing* and give them every opportunity to answer the charges in writing?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it done so in this case?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that the charges against Mr. Gunther were sent to him in writing and that his explanation was submitted through his immediate superior in writing?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do not the Government think that it is a summary way of dealing with a public servant?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government do not think so.

PRESIDENT: The answer has already been given.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not such procedure cut at the bottom of the safety of the public service and make it most insecure?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is a matter of opinion.

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